

Serial No. 08/321,589

IN THE CLAIMS

Please, rewrite claims 1-9 and 12-14 in amended form:

--1. (five times amended) The method of making a multipurpose device for holding objects by clamping without damaging them comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a cylindrical support part with a section circular or not,
- b) placing on said support part two arms of which one at least is movable, that is to say can slide along said support part,
- c) securing to [at least] one of said two arms at a [single] distance from said support part [with] one substantially elastic buffer having a contact face [which is essentially at a right angle to said support part and] under which the thickness is large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

--2. (five times amended) A multipurpose device for holding objects by clamping without damaging them, comprising:

- a cylindrical support part with a section circular or not,
- two arms of which one at least is movable, that is to say can slide along said support part,
- and one substantially elastic buffer secured to [at least] one of said two arms at a [single] distance from said support part, said buffer having a contact face [which is essentially at a right angle to said support part and] under which the thickness is large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

--3. (four times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein said [at least one] substantially elastic buffer comprises a ring which is covering part of said arm to which it is secured.

--4. (three times amended) A device according to claim 2 for overlapping wherein to said two arms are added two other movable arms, all of said movable arms can be turned around said support part into at least two directions and each of all of said arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part [,] so that the buffers of two first of said four arms along said support part [having] could have their contact faces facing the contact faces of the buffers of the two other said arms.

--5. (four times amended) A device according to claim 4 for being used as a helping hand, wherein to said four arms is added one pair of successive movable arms along said support part, each of these arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part [,] so that the buffer of each of said successive movable arms [having] could have its contact face facing the contact face of the buffer of the other successive arm.

Serial No. 08/321,589

--6. (four times amended) A device according to claim 2 for being used as a horizontal helping hand, wherein to said two arms are added successively two pairs of [successive] movable arms along said support part, each of said arms having one substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from said support part [,] so that the buffer of any [one successive] arm for each of said two pairs [having] could have its contact face facing the contact face of the buffer of the other [successive] arm of same pair.

--7. (three times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein at least one end of said support part features [is fitted out with] a removable stop such as a clip, a rider, a pin, a key or a section of cylindrical supple sheath slipped on said support part by a gentle forcing so as to turn those of said two arms that are movable into removable arms.

--8. (four times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part in at least one direction distinct from that of the first said support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm provided with [a] one said [at least one] substantially elastic buffer.

--9. (three times amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support parts [in directions] parallel to that of the first said support part, each of said another support parts carrying at least two arms, of which one at least is movable, and of which one at least is provided with one substantially elastic buffer.

--12. (Twice amended) The method of using a device including a [first] cylindrical support part, with a section circular or not, [wherein at least] and two [movable] arms of which one at least is movable, that is to say can slide along said [first] support part [and be turned around it into at least one direction], [each] one at least of said arms having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part [carrying said arm], said buffer having a contact face [which is essentially at a right angle to said support part and] under which the thickness is large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring, said method for holding objects by clamping without damaging, comprising the steps of:

- a) applying the buffer secured to each of said arms against any resistant surface,
- b) exerting on the back of each of said arms along said support part a manual thrust,
- c) stopping this thrust, so as to lock each of said arms by tilting against said support part.

--13. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said [first] support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another

Serial No. 08/321,589

face [which is essentially at a right angle to said support part and] under which the thickness is large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

--14. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said [first] support part has secured thereto a coupler which supports another support part, said another support part carrying at least one movable arm and another coupler, said one movable arm having a substantially elastic buffer secured thereto at a distance from the support part carrying said arm, said buffer having a contact face [which is essentially at a right angle to said support part and] under which the thickness is large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring.

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